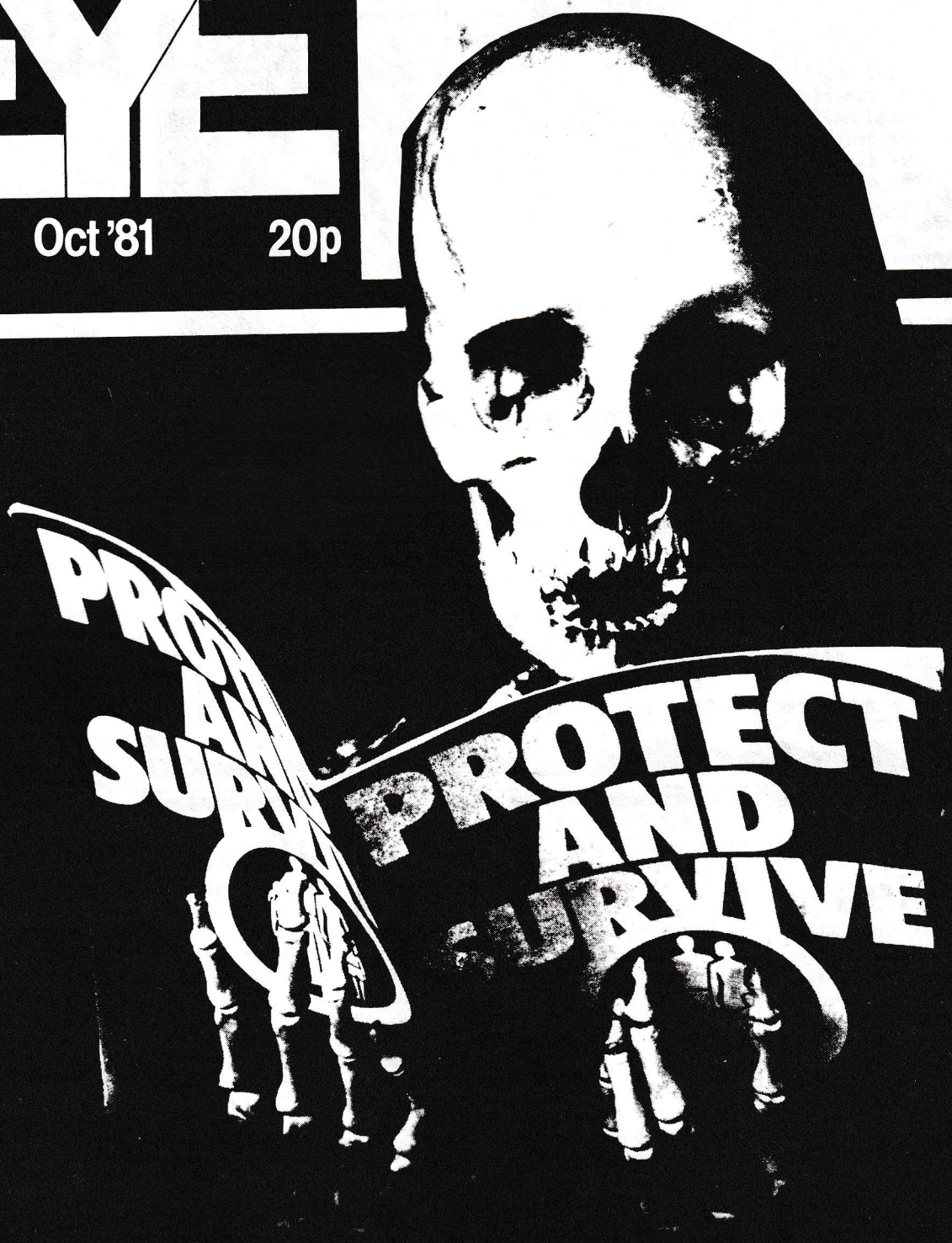
....CHEMSTAR EXPLOSION....NEW FACTS..

TAMESIDE EYE
No 26 Oct '81 20p



Tameside: After the Bomb

FIRST CLASS MAYOR!

Ever wished you could travel first class on British Rail? Well, it's quite simple, get yourself elected to Tameside Council to attend meetings of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities in London and you can go for free or rather, on the rates.

Don't believe it? ask GEORGE NEWTON hereditary Mayor of Tameside, he's done it once on 27th April and again on Jan. 28th this year and it cost you, the ratepayers, a total of £105 including his subsistence allowance.

We asked council leader ROY OLDHAM how he viewed this extravagance, and he seemed surprised we should be concerned over what he saw as a 'petty' matter.

Well, ROY, we don't think its petty, most Tameside ratepayers couldn't afford to travel first class rail themselves so why should they foot the bill for Deputy Mayor NEWTONs day out in air-conditioned luxury ? □

TAMESIDE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH
EMBER'S APPLICATION FOR ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE
AND TRAVELLING AND SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE

Name of Member G NEWTON Home Address 81 LISMORE ROAD DUKINFIELD

Date 198[illegible]	Particulars of meeting or other approved duty with location	Place and Time of Departure	Place and Time of Return	Period of Time claimed	Method and Class of Travel	PUBLIC TRANSPORT Travel Expenses claimed £	p	Subsistence Allowance claimed £	p
Jan 28	LONDON - AMA MEETING	M/CR	M/CR	12Hrs	1st class	45	20	9	10

Labour Troubles

HAUGHTON GREEN YOUTH CLUB have spent August raising much needed cash by making collections in the local pubs and clubs using a special one month permit from the authorities. They had a fantastic response - not one pub or club turned them down-except DENTON LABOUR CLUB.

Two weeks before their permit ran out, the Youth Club approached DAVID WRIGHT the Labour Club's Secretary. DAVID felt he could make no decision without all his committee there. So there was no collection. Interesting to note then, that the local Conservative Club's Secretary was able to sanction a collection on the spot at his club.

DENTON LABOUR CLUB's Chairman is Cllr.MARTIN WAREING and he has just watched over extensive refurbishment of the club.▷ MARTIN and his fellow Directors have just democratically appointed ~~to~~ new directors. JIM WHITTON and GEORGE KELLY. Neither of whom were in the Labour party.

It is estimated that only 10% of the club's 600 members are in the Labour Party and recently KEN MARKS MP has been hearing allegations that the Club is not supporting the Party during its time of financial distress as well as it might.
So, the mean-mindedness of the club can't be blamed on Socialism can it? □

Nat West

HAUGHTON GREEN PLAYSCHEME asked the local NATIONAL WESTMINSTER BANK if they would display one of their posters. The Bank refused saying it was 'company policy' not to display posters. How mean can you get? □

Mix Up

JAMES McLELLAN of ASHTON had an unpleasant time, financially speaking, when he worked for the GOOD-FELLOW SCHOOL OF MOTORING. BRIAN WILLIAMS, GSM's BOSS said JAMES and other driving instructors were self-employed. The Dept. of Health and Social Security in the form of WILLIAM MELLOR (a DHSS Inspector) said they most definitely were not.
Readers can imagine the total mess MR. McLELLAN now finds his National Insurance contributions in. In a letter dated May 1980 MELLOR quotes WILLIAMS agreeing to 'adjust his records' and 'deduct contributions from your earnings'. So far, MC. LELLAN informs EYE WILLIAMS has failed to do this. And into the bargain, deep in GOOD-FELLOWs, Longsight, M/c. H.Q. WILLIAMS is holding out on paying MCLELLAN £1681 for petrol purchased during instructing. □

Meals Row

It is good to note that school meals in TAMESIDE are the cheapest in the Country. But in teaching circles this "Victory" for common sense has been marred by rumours and in-fighting.

ERIC PILKINGTON, Head of CORRIE JUNIOR, DENTON, and leading light in the local NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of HEAD TEACHERS has put a lot of backs up by demanding higher school meal charges. His statement appeared in the local Press, as though he spoke for all TAMESIDE'S teachers. In fact he speaks for a small minority - heads of schools, not all of whom agree with him.

In neighbouring STOCKPORT school meals are 50pence, whilst TAMESIDE'S are only 35pence. But the Council's decision has been followed by rumours that teachers will have to pay for the meals they have when they are on "dinner duty". These rumours have been firmly denied by the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT. Apparently they are simply looking into the wide variation from shcool to school in the number of pupils per teacher on dinner duty. □

Hartle

Gossips in MOTTRAM are putting it about that the Lord of Mottram Hall former machine-tool magnate. DEREK HARTLE didn't show up at a meeting of his creditors in MANCESTER last JULY, as reported in our last issue.
Instead, say sources close to the HARTLE family, DEREK shot off to FRANCE for a holiday, accompanied by a lady friend.
If this was the case, then it would appear that DEREK HARTLE LTD, one of the last remaining vestiges of HARTLE's former vast business empire, was liquidated unceremoniously in his absence.

News from the grave

The prospect of utter annihilation in the near-future appears to have done nothing to bring the warring factions of the local far-left together. Take the case of ASHTON AGAINS THE MISSILES. Until recently the local branch of the Trotskyite SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY were very active in this group. Then the local COMMUNIST PARTY moved in, led by that indefatigable writer of revolutionary letters, FRANK CROPPER. Immediately the SOCIAL-IST WORKERS packed their socialist bags and moved over to HYDE AGAINST THE MISSILES leaving ASHTON to FRANK & Co.

When the bomb drops on Tameside we trust that the Trots and the Commies will STILL be squabbling over who rules the revol-utionary roost in the gently glowing ruins. □

Minibus hassles

TAMESIDE's Youth Clubs have been cursing loudly this summer. Many had plans for trips and youth camps, expecting to use the YOUTH & COMMUNITY DEPT. minibus. But, the veh-icle has effectively been off the road since April (!) And is even now hav-ing its third gear-box fitted.

The reason for the lack of vital transport seems to be a classic mix of poor maintenance and in-competence for which the garage (GRAHAMS of ASHTON) and Youth and Community's NORMAN PREGNALL must take the largest bouquet. Imagine the sequence: the gear-box fails so the vehicle goes into the garage (ASHTON) but replacement parts have to come from OPEL in GERMANY; from GERMANY they go to BRADFORD where they're fitted to the gear-box , Which then goes back to ASHTON for fitting into the idle minibus. Efficient Eh?

The second gear-box then ▷ broke down days after the bus was back on the road and so the sorry tale goes on.

Next month: EYE tells the Youth & Community Dept. how to get drunk in a brewery. □

Some people have got no taste. In particular, the staff on the door at local builder ROLAND BARDSLEY's CARRIAGES nite-spot. A regular EYE reader recently turned up to the festivities eleg-antly dressed with an EYE T-shirt gracing his chest. *And the staff had the nerve to refuse him admission!* He got in later having borrowed a friend's shirt and tie. such a shame that the shirt was a few sizes too small. Imagine our reader's sur-prise when, in the middle of the dance floor, the shirt's buttons popped off to reveal the offending garment beneath. □

Coppers

Following last issues "Posh Street" feature an EYE reader told us how the MULLANEY family of HARTS-HEAD PIKE scrap merchants made a killing out of would-you-believe- it - the 1960 Rhodesia crisis! It seems that the price of copper from central Africa soared in those days and so the heaps of rotting washing machines on the MULLANEY's enormous eye-sore tip suddenly became very valuable. Reason ? All their electrical systems were copper-covered !

Speaking of scrap merchants We're still waiting for the good MR. WYERS of the NAT - IONAL FEDERATION OF MOTOR DISMANTLERS to fulfill his blustering threat and sue us over our recent article on the MYATTS un-authorised scrap heap on MOSSLEY's QUICK EDGE. Surely, MR. WYERS, you weren't just bullshitting were you ? □

News from the gutter:

Yes, it's true, ROBERT WRIGLEY of 'Reels' video shop may have done for MOSSLEY town centre what the Luftwaffe did for Cov-entry, but look at the feast of quality films he has brought to the culture-starved corner of TAMESIDE. For a nominal charge, you can take away such movie milestones as 'Erotic young lovers', 'Sex Conn-ection' and 'Texas Chain-saw massacre' to view in the privacy of your own home.

How can those churlish Mossleyites carp about this saintly man; he can build a dormer on our roof any time.

EYE's clairevoyant adds.... **Guess who's just moved into Wrigley's old prem-ises over the road from 'Reels' ? None other than that famous brass band, Marlyn Homes Centre (see BRASS NERVE, EYE 25). We told you so.* □

Shock

As part of the EYE's tire-less effort to bring before you- the TAMESIDE public - all that is best and beautiful in our fair Borough, we have now appointed a SHOPPING CORR-ESPONDENT. This month he concentrates on birthday presents.....

This month's bargains are to be found not amongst the bright town centre ▷ lights but on the SHEP-LEY INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, AUDENSHAW. There you will find G.B.I. LABOR-ATORIES LTD. For only £1.65 each you can acquire a live frog (subject to availab-ility); for £2.10 a live rat. Now, if you have someone special in mind, then you need go no further than 'RATTUS NORVEGICUS' embalmed and pregnant - a very dead rat at only £3.85. Looking further through their fascinating catal-ogue G.B.I.'s Director MR. P. KEARSLEY can supply you with a 'life-size SKELETORSO in Latex rubber- with interchange-able male and female reproductive organs' surely a snip at £440. □

Horror

Beady-eyed readers of the STALYBRIDGE REPORTER will recall the recent court-case concerned with sexual goings- on at the TROPIQUE MASSAGE PARLOUR on ASTLEY RD. STALYBRIDGE.

We were interested to dis-cover recently that the TROPIQUES landlord is none other than DEAN & WHIPP LTD. the DENTON based firm of PROPERTY SPECULATORS and sometime MONEYLENDERS. CAMBRIDGE educated sol-icitor and DEAN & WHIPP Director JOHN M. DEAN must have been acutely embarrass-ed to discover that his first tenants of his new bijou office development were running a house of ill-repute. □

EYE back issues

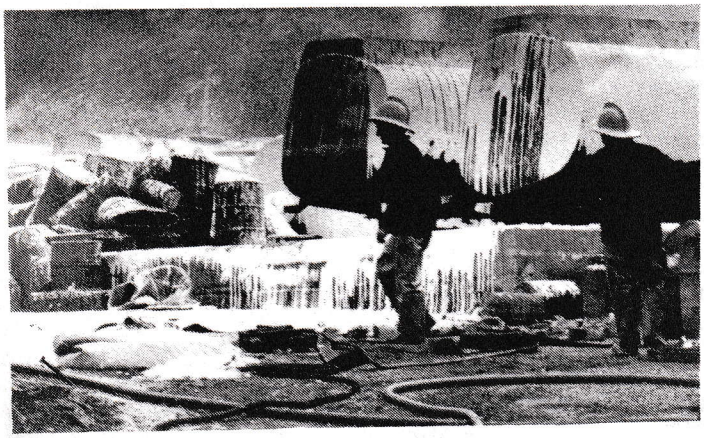
30p each or ten for £2

Send money with order to

TAMESIDE EYE
P.O. BOX 30
HYDE
CHESHIRE
SK 14 3JL

POST & PACKING INCLUDED
CASH WITH ORDER:
ALL CHEQUES/POSTAL ORDERS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO " TAMESIDE EYE ".

CHEMSTAR DISASTER



☆*Bosses GEORGE MOLYNEAUX and GEORGE BINGHAM said they couldn't afford to clean up their filthy company and shift their inflammable oil drums.*

THAT WAS A LIE!

☆*Local firemen say the fire started when chemical leaking from oil drums vapourised and exploded.*

RESIDENTS WROTE TO THE HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE ABOUT DANGEROUS CORROSION IN CHEMSTAR OIL-DRUMS OVER A YEAR BEFORE THE DISASTER OCCURRED.

☆*The health and safety executive assured residents that a fire at CHEMSTAR would not put them in danger.*

WHEN THE FIRE CAME, 1,000 PEOPLE HAD TO BE EVACUATED!

BINGHAM and MOLYNEAUX set up CHEMSTAR in 1975 with their own accumulated capital and a £10,000 mortgage from one ALAN CLEGG of HIGHAM in LANCASHIRE.

In an interview given to the SUNDAY TIMES in JUNE 1978 they told how they had always intended to reach "The dirty end of the market" by storing and refining "soups of chemical waste" that no-one else would touch.

To this end they bought up the old BUCKTON MILL PRINT WORKS in the CARRBROOK conservation area. The mill already had planning permission for industrial use, and BINGHAM and MOLYNEAUX lost no time in exploiting that permission to the full.

There was soon a steady stream of heavy wagons loading and un-loading oil-drums full of solvents through a gate-way into a yard that, according to residents, had previously been used only once a year for maintenance work.

Now "exceptionally long and heavy tankers" were taking 20 minutes to manouvre through, knocking down garden walls and damaging the local bowling green fence.

A letter written by the local residents on the 21st JUNE 1978 to the then TORY Chairman of the TAMESIDE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE MRS. TRACEY detailed the problems.

It spoke of the dreadful smell coming from CHEMSTAR. A smell that forced people to keep out of their gardens with their windows closed, and produced over a dozen reports of vomiting.

How company lies, broken promises, and official delays ended in disaster...

It spoke of the hundreds of "old rusty drums" outside the works building on what had once been a grass covered area, and the installation of several large ugly tanks "without any attempt at screening".

It spoke of glaring floodlights at night, noise from pumps un-loading tankers, and of fork-lift trucks throwing loads of empty drums on and off wagons, "24 hours a day and on SUNDAY evenings".

Mrs. TRACEY never replied to the letter.

And the CHEMSTAR management's reply to all the residents complaints was always the same: "we haven't the money".

But both the amount of activity at CHEMSTAR and the SUNDAY TIMES article of JUNE 1978 suggest that this was not true.

The chemical industry was booming in the 70's.

BINGHAM and MOLYNEAUX told reporters that the company output of refined chemicals had grown from 10,000 litres a week in 1975 to 100,000 litres in 1978, their workforce had grown from two to twelve and they expected to make a pre-tax profit of £100,000 in 1978-79. A CHEMSTAR jobs-advert of this period described the company as "the U.K.'s fastest growing chemical reclamation company" and assured potential employees of "a secure future".

The Sunday Times article ▷

Other fires, other leaks

There is a long and disturbing history of leaks and fires in TAMESIDE chemical factories.

OCT. 74: KAY METZELER, PARK ROAD, DUKINFIELD, Fire: Plastic foam products.

MAY 75: MOORLITE ELECTRICAL ASHTON. Fire; Plastics involved.

DEC. 76; STERLING MOULDINGS. CASTLE MILL, STALYBRIDGE. Leak of Styrene monomer.

JUNE 77: STERLING MOULDINGS, CASTLE MILL, STALYBRIDGE. Overheating reactor, residents evecuated, firebrigade called.

JUNE 78: STERLING MOULDINGS, QUEEN MILL, DUKINFIELD. Emission of pungent fumes causing nausea and vomiting amongst residents. Cause: faulty filter.

JULY 78: MANRO PRODUCTS, BRIDGE STREET, STALYBRIDGE, Acid Emission.

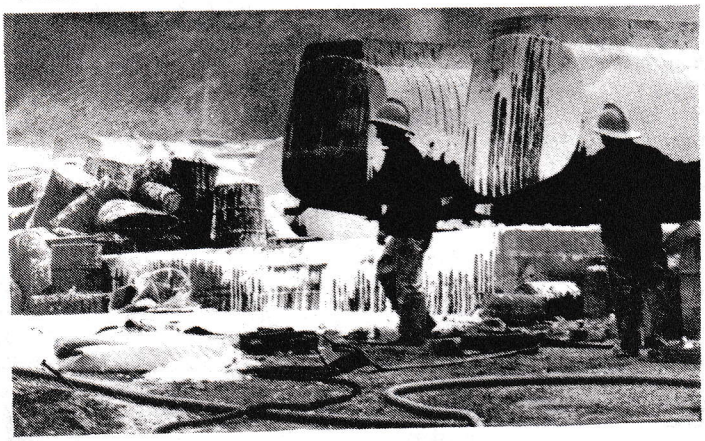
AUG 78; STERLING MOULDINGS, CASTLE MILL, STALYBRIDGE. Fire:one of 12 silos caught fire and exploded whilst firemen were tackling it. Cause: 'unknown'.

MAR. 79: KINGSTON MILL, MANCHESTER ROAD, HYDE. Fire: foam backed plastic material set alight. £23,000 damage.

MAR. 79: NEWTON BANK PRINT WORKS. HYDE. Fire.

MAY 79 : D.W. DARE& CO. LTD., WHITELANDS ROAD, ASHTON. Fire:Rubber and plastic. Fire could be seen as far away as NEWTON in HYDE.

CHEMSTAR DISASTER



☆*Bosses GEORGE MOLYNEAUX and GEORGE BINGHAM said they couldn't afford to clean up their filthy company and shift their inflammable oil drums.*

THAT WAS A LIE!

☆*Local firemen say the fire started when chemical leaking from oil drums vapourised and exploded.*

RESIDENTS WROTE TO THE HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE ABOUT DANGEROUS CORROSION IN CHEMSTAR OIL-DRUMS OVER A YEAR BEFORE THE DISASTER OCCURRED.

☆*The health and safety executive assured residents that a fire at CHEMSTAR would not put them in danger.*

WHEN THE FIRE CAME, 1,000 PEOPLE HAD TO BE EVACUATED!

BINGHAM and MOLYNEAUX set up CHEMSTAR in 1975 with their own accumulated capital and a £10,000 mortgage from one ALAN CLEGG of HIGHAM in LANCASHIRE.

In an interview given to the SUNDAY TIMES in JUNE 1978 they told how they had always intended to reach "The dirty end of the market" by storing and refining "soups of chemical waste" that no-one else would touch.

To this end they bought up the old BUCKTON MILL PRINT WORKS in the CARRBROOK conservation area. The mill already had planning permission for industrial use, and BINGHAM and MOLYNEAUX lost no time in exploiting that permission to the full.

There was soon a steady stream of heavy wagons loading and un-loading oil-drums full of solvents through a gate-way into a yard that, according to residents, had previously been used only once a year for maintenance work.

Now "exceptionally long and heavy tankers" were taking 20 minutes to manouvre through, knocking down garden walls and damaging the local bowling green fence.

A letter written by the local residents on the 21st JUNE 1978 to the then TORY Chairman of the TAMESIDE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE MRS. TRACEY detailed the problems.

It spoke of the dreadful smell coming from CHEMSTAR. A smell that forced people to keep out of their gardens with their windows closed, and produced over a dozen reports of vomiting.

How company lies, broken promises, and official delays ended in disaster...

It spoke of the hundreds of "old rusty drums" outside the works building on what had once been a grass covered area, and the installation of several large ugly tanks "without any attempt at screening".

It spoke of glaring floodlights at night, noise from pumps unloading tankers, and of fork-lift trucks throwing loads of empty drums on and off wagons, "24 hours a day and on SUNDAY evenings".

Mrs. TRACEY never replied to the letter.

And the CHEMSTAR management's reply to all the residents complaints was always the same: "we haven't the money".

But both the amount of activity at CHEMSTAR and the SUNDAY TIMES article of JUNE 1978 suggest that this was not true.

The chemical industry was booming in the 70's.

BINGHAM and MOLYNEAUX told reporters that the company output of refined chemicals had grown from 10,000 litres a week in 1975 to 100,000 litres in 1978, their workforce had grown from two to twelve and they expected to make a pre-tax profit of £100,000 in 1978-79. A CHEMSTAR jobs-advert of this period described the company as "the U.K.'s fastest growing chemical reclamation company" and assured potential employees of "a secure future".

The Sunday Times article ▷

Other fires, other leaks

There is a long and disturbing history of leaks and fires in TAMESIDE chemical factories.

OCT. 74: KAY METZELER, PARK ROAD, DUKINFIELD, Fire: Plastic foam products.

MAY 75: MOORLITE ELECTRICAL ASHTON. Fire; Plastics involved.

DEC. 76; STERLING MOULDINGS. CASTLE MILL, STALYBRIDGE. Leak of Styrene monomer.

JUNE 77: STERLING MOULDINGS, CASTLE MILL, STALYBRIDGE. Overheating reactor, residents evecuated, firebrigade called.

JUNE 78: STERLING MOULDINGS, QUEEN MILL, DUKINFIELD. Emission of pungent fumes causing nausea and vomiting amongst residents. Cause: faulty filter.

JULY 78: MANRO PRODUCTS, BRIDGE STREET, STALYBRIDGE, Acid Emission.

AUG 78; STERLING MOULDINGS, CASTLE MILL, STALYBRIDGE. Fire:one of 12 silos caught fire and exploded whilst firemen were tackling it. Cause: 'unknown'.

MAR. 79: KINGSTON MILL, MANCHESTER ROAD, HYDE. Fire: foam backed plastic material set alight. £23,000 damage.

MAR. 79: NEWTON BANK PRINT WORKS. HYDE. Fire.

MAY 79 : D.W. DARE& CO. LTD., WHITELANDS ROAD, ASHTON. Fire:Rubber and plastic. Fire could be seen as far away as NEWTON in HYDE.

INVESTIGATION

was written because that year CHEMSTAR were in the running for the paper's £75,000 *SMALL BUSINESS AWARD*.
Why then could CHEMSTAR not afford to move their LEAKY oil-drums, and screen their UGLY storage tanks?

On 25 APRIL 1977 CARRBROOK residents met HER MAJESTY'S CHIEF INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES one Mr J. NEWTON. In a letter written after that meeting NEWTON assured them that *"There should be no risk to adjacent property"* from the oil drums, *"If the separation distances .... are maintained"*. NEWTON repeated this assurance to anxious residents in another letter written a year later. Well, there clearly was a grave risk to residents when the fire started on SUNDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 1981.

Did that risk occur because the "separation distances" between the drums and nearby house "weren't maintained" or was it because the official "separation distances" are themselves too close for safety? In any event local residents were adamant that the oil drums in question were piled "within thirty feet" of nearby houses.

After the change of power in TAMESIDE in MAY 1979, the new LABOUR COUNCIL and its left-wing ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CHAIRMAN, GLYN FORD, began to take an interest in CHEMSTAR.

Complaints about the chemical works were pouring in, and the residents produced a petition signed by everyone in CARRBROOK.

At this point CHEMSTAR Director GEORGE BINGHAM produced a "four-point plan" to solve the problem.
In it he promised to:

. Alter production procedures to 'limit' the stink.

. Search for a new site for CHEMSTAR "somewhere in the NORTH WEST".

Remove all the oil drums from the front of the factory to a new site at the rear, further away from houses.

And he repeated once again his claim that these things had not been done earlier because of a "lack of money".

But when the EYE tried to check out CHEMSTAR finances at that time, we discovered that BINGHAM had not filed any accounts with COMPANIES HOUSE in LONDON since the firm was formed in 1975.

In any case, he did not keep his promises.

It wasn't until CHEMSTAR occupied additional building and yard areas, and erected new processing and storage equipment in 1979 without asking for new planning permission that the Council could act.

When CHEMSTAR did apply for (retrospective) planning permission the Council consulted the HEALTH and SAFETY EXECUTIVE and the COUNTY FIRE SERVICE. Neither raised any objection, so the application was approved, but on one condition. The firm had to clear all the oil drums stacked near houses by the end of SEPTEMBER 1980, and it was not to deliver any more drums to that particular yard after that date.

BINGHAM and MOLYNEAUX did not comply with this order.

The council served an enforcement order on CHEMSTAR on 24th FEB. 1981 instructing them to clear the yard. But BINGHAM and MOLYNEAUX appealed to the DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT.

A public enquiry was held last JULY and BINGHAM admitted that chemicals stored close to houses in his yard were both "toxic and flammable", but MICHEAL HESELTINE, the TORY Environment Minister gave the company until DECEMBER 31st 1981 to comply with the Council's order to shift the dangerously leaking drums. Informal local sources argue that this deferrment could not have happened two years earlier under the previous Government.

They suggest that HESELTINE's tolerant attitude to CHEMSTAR was part of his party's policy of relaxing Planning and Pollution regulations in order to encourage industrial growth. Whatever his reasons, HESELTINE'S decision to delay the removal of the drums played its part in ensuring that the explosion at CHEMSTAR only one month later caused the maximum risk to local people. Especially as it now appears that there were twice as many drums at the front entrance of CHEMSTAR when it went up, as in JULY when HESELTINE ordered them to be removed.

Exactly what part the procrastination and intransigence of CHEMSTAR directors BINGHAM and MOLYNEAUX played in the death of one of their workmen and the severe burning of another, is a matter for their own consciences, and perhaps, the public enquiry being called for by labour M.P. TOM PENDRY.

BURNT-OUT CAR IN CHEMSTAR YARD

Danger list

"ANY CHEMCIAL FACTORY WITH INFLAMMABLE MATERIALS MUST BE CONSIDERED UNSAFE" SAID CHEMSTAR DIRECTOR GEORGE MOLYNEAUX AS HE TAPPED CIGARETTE ASH INTO THE STILL SMOULDERING RUINS OF HIS FACTORY.

There are thirty eight officially listed chemical firms in TAMESIDE. Most are close to houses. Not all handle toxic or inflammable materials. Some do. But when we attempted to get a list of which ones are potentially dangerous we were told that under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, although TAMESIDE, G.M.C., THE HEALTH AND SAFETY EXECUTIVE, and the COUNTY FIRE SERVICE have such lists, these are "not divulged to the public" because they often involve information on "secret processes" given to local government officers by companies on the strict understanding that the information is confidential.

In other words, the people who are in most danger - ordinary residents living close to these factories - are denied any information about the kind and scope of the danger they are in.

However, one of these lists was leaked to the MANCHESTER MOLE EXPRESS magazine in the mid-seventies, and, though out of date, it does give some interesting information about local chemical firms.

This list names 46 chemical firms in GREATER MANCHESTER where an explosion or fire could involve nearby houses.

At that time five of those factories were in TAMESIDE.
They were, CASTLE MILL and ALBION MILL in STALYBRIDGE (both owned by STERLING MOULDINGS, LTD.); ELLIS and EVERARD in MOSSLEY; GLYNWED in ASHTON and the ICI factory at NEWTON in HYDE. □

Our leaders are planning to 'win' the next war... but w

When the bomb drops

When the next war starts Nuclear weapons will almost certainly be aimed at the centre of MANCHESTER and RINGWAY AIRPORT. Let us assume THAT

- Only two such weapons actually arrive, each with a strength of one megaton.
- Both arrive on target.
- One explodes in the air, and the other on the ground

In fact, of course, any nuclear weapons aimed at the city of MANCHESTER or RINGWAY are as likely to land, say, on the JUBILEE HALL in DUKINFIELD as PICCADILLY, they could well be many times more powerful than ONE MEGATON, and there will almost certainly be more than two of them. But we're assuming the best so as not to alarm unduly.

A ONE MEGATON bomb bursting directly above the statue of QUEEN VICTORIA in PICCADILLY GARDENS will go off with the force of 700,000 tons of T.N.T. or with 60 times the destructive power of the bomb that annihilated HIROSHIMA in 1946 killing 200,000 people.

The crater made by the bomb that drops on MANCHESTER will be several hundred yards across, and very deep. PICCADILLY GARDENS, THE PLAZA, WOOLWORTHS, COUNTY HALL, THE WHITWORTH ST. BUS STATION, all the buildings around, and anyone unfortunate enough to be going about their everyday business in these places at the time, will simply dis - appear.

They will be the lucky ones.

At the moment of explosion there will be a blinding flash of light and heat. As far away as GLOSSOP and SADDLEWORTH anyone looking in the direction of this flash will have their eyes permanently damaged, because the lens of the eye focusses the heat flash on the sensitive inner lining of the eye, burning a hole in it.

People caught out in the open in DENTON, DROYLSDEN, FAIRFIELD and the outskirts of ASHTON would be severely burnt, and any inflammable material within a 2-3 mile radius of the flash (say between PICCADILLY and outer DENTON) would burst into flames: paper, easy chairs, hair, skin, posters and any - thing made of plastic or foam would spontaneously ignite.

After the flash comes the blast-wave, roaring outwards from the explosion at several hundred miles an hour, flattening CLAYTON and GORTON, reducing FAIRFIELD and DROYLSDEN to a smoking ruin and completely blocking the streets of DENTON, ASHTON and HAUGHTON GREEN (which would also be getting the same treatment from the bomb that dropped on RINGWAY).

Any sort of rescue work in these areas (assuming enough firemen and doctors survive) would be virtually impossible as water-mains burst, electricity cables writhe across impassible streets, and the screams of blind, charred pedestrians and trapped families echo through thick dust clouds.

At this point people living in the eastern bits of ASHTON, in STALYBRIDGE, HYDE, MOSSLEY, MOTTRAM and SADDLEWORTH would be 'better off'. The doors and windows of their houses would have been blown in, there would be blind people wandering around aimlessly, and debris in the streets, but they would still be alive, for a time.

Until the firestorm takes over.

The enormous number of isolated fires started by the explosion all over GREATER MANCHESTER would not stay separate. In the big fire storms of WORLD WAR II in HAMBURG, TOKYO, DRESDEN and other cities the fires quickly combined to create a red-hot holocaust of the most appalling proportions. Now, all over TAMESIDE small fires in houses factories and fields unite, increase in power and suck up oxygen until huge pillars of flame and burning typhoons spread the holocaust everywhere: uprooting trees, hurling burning branches and flammable material through the air, and sending flames shooting into houses through gaping doors and windows. People caught out in the streets burn or asphyxiate to death as a 'snow storm' of red hot flakes whirls around them.

The firestorm in TOKYO killed 84,000 in a few hours, and covered an area of 16 square miles.

The bomb that drops on MANCHESTER being many times bigger will have no trouble including all of TAMESIDE in its hot grasp.

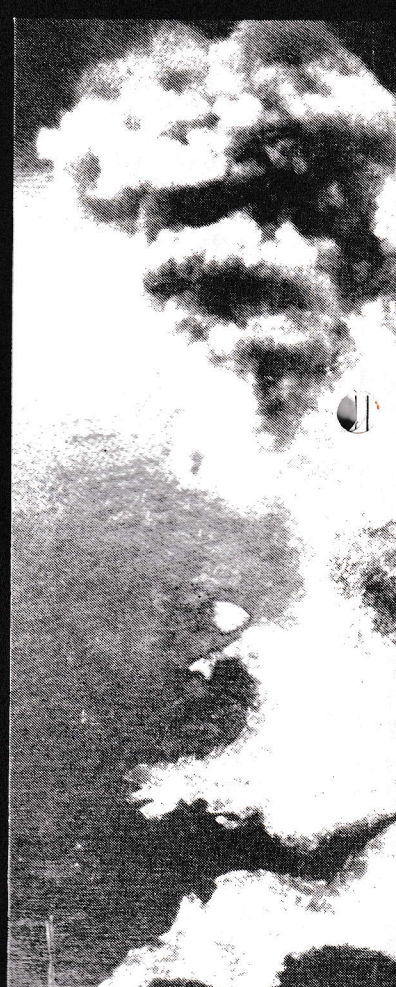
As the survivors of all this crawl out from under the rubble thanking whatever GOD they still believe in, the effects of radiation set in.

The first symptoms are headaches, nausea, dizzyness and frequent vomiting. This lasts several days, and is followed by apparent relief.

But after two or three weeks the symptoms return accompanied by internal haemorrhaging, breathing becomes difficult, hair drops out, sores appear on and under the skin, there is fever, fatigue and finally, painful death.

Those who don't die quickly are likely to suffer from anaemia, leukemia, tumours and cancer of the bone and tissue and their children, born afterthe bomb are likely to be weak, malformed, short lived and poorly resistant to all kinds of disease.□

Doo



in Ta

PHOTO-MONTAGES: (FRONT COVER & THIS PAGE) PETER KENNARD

After the b

The Govt. considers it likely that 20 million British people will die in a NUCLEAR WAR. This is almost certainly a gross under-estimate.

But, the Govt. has no plans to build mass fall-out shelters. Reason? They would cost 'Billions and billions of pounds' (LORD BELSTEAD, CIVIL DEFENCE SECTION, HOME OFFICE).

Neither is th
to evacuate p
large populat
as GREATER MA
because there
place to send

The Govt. adv
ary people th
simple '*stay*
The official
'PROTECT AND
details what
think you sho
when you get
impending att

at will happen to us? EYE investigates...

omb drops

any plan
le from
areas such
ESTER
no safe
em.

to ordin-
fore is
home'.
phlet
VIVE'
Govt.
do
ning of
.

You should:-

- Run around removing inflammable materials from the house, and coat all windows with light coloured emulsion paint.
- Put a fire extinguisher, a bucket of water and a lot of sand on every floor.
- Choose a room as far away from the roof and outer walls as possible, block up its windows and doors and store up enough food and water in it to last you a fortnight.
- Build a second,'inner refuge' within this room by propping doors against a wall, or surrounding a table with boxes of sand, earth, books or clothing, then, if there's still time after all this interior decoration, crawl inside and wait for the explosion.

This handy booklet even provides instructions as to what you should do with any dead bodies you might find lying around your house after the holocaust. You should 'place the body in another room....attach an identification' (in case YOU pop off before the man from the cemetary arrives) ....and wait for radio instructions!

A PANORAMA programme on 10th May 1980 followed the instructions laid out in 'PROTECT AND SURVIVE' and they found that every householder would need 100 bags or containers, strength enough to lift a ton of earth, extra floor joists to take the weight, and a lot of time.

If you're old, sick, live in a bungalow or high rise flat or the crisis blows up quickly (the Cuban missile affair in the early sixties began and ended within three days) you might as well use what sand you can find for sticking your head in.

However, if we do find ourselves having to crawl beneath bomb-proof kitchen tables we can be comforted by the thought that selected politicians, bureaucrats, police and military men will be descending safely into specially prepared fall-out bunkers scattered in a network right across the country. These bunkers are designed to shield them from the worst effects of blast, flash and radiation.

The NATIONAL War H.Q. is deep beneath the streets of LONDON. The H.Q. for the NORTH WEST is in PRESTON the one for GREATER MANCHESTER is at MILL LANE in CHEADLE and TAMESIDE's is probably beneath the G.P.O. building in ASHTON (though there are current rumours about a bigger deeper shelter underneath the civic centre). During the last year war preparations by the men responsible for these Centres have increased, disturbingly.
In GREATER MANCHESTER, for example, the counties EMERGENCY PLANNING TEAM (led by PETER COLLINS, the man who set up JAMES ANDERTON's S.P.G. style TACTICAL AID GROUP) has more than doubled in size.

There has been an increase in the number of training courses for Local Govt. officers and councillors both at EASINGWOLD, the HOME DEFENCE COLLEGE at YORK, and locally.

And, large sums of money have been spent renovating and up-dating the MILL LANE Bunker.

Last March TAMESIDE Chief Executive DAVID SPIERS will have received a confidential HOME OFFICE Circular (No. E.SI/1981) instructing him to.....

- Prepare 'for the possibility of hostilities at short notice.'

Exactly what DAVID SPIERS (or the COUNTY emergency planning team) will actually be able to do is arguable especially when you consider that TAMESIDE'S total expenditure on CIVIL DEFENCE last year was all of £1,500, but without doubt, when the warning comes, he will be taking his place in the local shelter accompanied by a bevy of top TAMESIDE BUREAUCRATS, POLICE and DOCTORS who will help him deal with the imminent on-going holocaust situation.
But their main job will not be our post nuclear health or safety, because it will, quite simply, be impossible to ensure either.
It will be 'Law and order'. This was made quite clear in another Govt.circular received by SPIERS some time in FEB. 1976.

It spoke of concentrating 'the main resources of the war time judicial and penal system against the anti-social behaviour of individuals'
In these conditions 'emergency courts' consisting of one, two or three local magistrates (so, THEY're going down the bunker too, eh?) would hand out punishment like 'communal labour' and 'restricted rations' to all but the gravest offenders who would be dealt with'in the light of conditions and circumstances' (i.e. shot).

This article is based on official Government surveys statistics leaflets and circulars in our possession. The war preparations being made at the moment are real, and so is the current official view that it is possible for Britain to take part in a nuclear war, survive and win, even at the expense of 20 million or more civilian casualties. In these circumstances Civil Defence preparations which can do little to help the mass of the people are both dangerous and sinister, for they can only be aimed at ensuring the survival of a ruling elite capable of continuing a war that no one in their right mind can even begin to contemplate...□

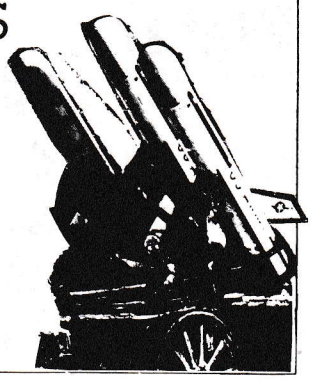
STALYBRIDGE AGAINST THE MISSILES

WEEK OF ACTION

MONDAY 28th SEPT. -
SATURDAY 3rd OCTOBER

FOLK NIGHT, LIBRARY DISPLAY
Showings of 'The War Game'
Public Meeting
Street Theatre

Look out for local adverts for final details of exact dates of events



HOUSING

Gang of crooks

A Salford based property company described by GERALD KAUFFMAN M.P. as a " Gang of Crooks" has been operating in Tameside.

D.M. & M. HALPERN LTD. is a family firm of property speculators who own local slum housing and operate grossly unfair rental mortgage schemes. (See EYE 9, Sept. 1979, for more details)

They own property on FOUNTAIN STREET,HYDE.

Two years ago, one of these had a useless gutter, causing damp in adjoining property. HALPERN's did nothing about it, so under the relevant law - Tameside mended it and sent them the bill. Which HALPERN's ignored.

But they did not ignore the opportunity this property 'improvement' had created. They put up the tenant's rent - 'to pay for the guttering'! Now Tameside have taken them to court over the bad debt. Negotiations between HALPERN's solicitors and the BOROUGH's Legal Dept. are still in progress. TAMESIDE are expecting to recover their expenses as well as the cost of the guttering. □

Water

When the CASTLE's moved into their MOSSLEY home 12 months ago, they decided to replace all old internal lead plumbing. Since then they've had nothing but trouble..

The CASTLE's are doing all their own home improvements because MR. CASTLE's age would have meant loan repayments until he was 81. They pulled out the old piping and disconnected some leading to their back garden.

Immediately PORTMAN ST. AUTOS, who occupy a garage behind the CASTLE residence came round demanding why their water had been cut off! And, now they've had a letter from NORTH WEST WATER telling them to reconnect the supply to the garage. But the CASTLE's feel it's not their problem.

EYE spoke to MR.HOTSTON the Authority 'Area Distribution Engineer', who claimed that 'common supply pipes' occured frequently in older properties, and that as it was a situation 'inherited' by the WATER AUTHORITY the pipe should be reconnected. Of course, if the garage wanted to pay for a new connection..... It appears PORTMAN ST AUTOS are now getting their water supply from a disused outside toilet along the terrace. □

NEWS

Bitching

The constant fighting, verbal and otherwise, between local fascists in the National Front and Socialist Worker Party members has taken a new departure.Much to senior SWP members' embarrassment, KEVIN PICKLES threw a brick through NF DAVID JONES' front window. Now JONES, who lost his deposit for the Front at the last General Election, has sent EYE a copy of a letter to PICKLES from his PROBATION OFFICER, by way of retaliation. Questions are now being asked as to how JONES obtained this letter. □

Canals

TAMESIDE Canal Boat users are angry with the ROCHDALE CANAL CO.(of Dale St. Manchester). They're charging canal users £12 lock fees on their stretch of what is known as the 'Cheshire ring'. And then fitting *three* boats in the lock at a time. □

INDUSTRY

OLDHAM BATTERIES

OLDHAM BATTERIES new 'CAREFREE' battery process has done well, so much so that many workers have been offered the stark choice of going down the road or taking work in the 'CAREFREE' section, sometimes at lower pay.

In one instance a timeserved plumber and a joiner both ended up on the 'CAREFREE' line. They had received Government sponsered training in their crafts. When their training finished, they were offered work on 'CAREFREE' or the dole.

In the canteen, the staff have been 'redeployed' onto the new battery production. Their place has been taken by MIDLAND CATERING SERVICES who are there on contract.□

ASHTON BROS

Last issue we reported the low pay at ASHTON BROS. HYDE - a part of COURTAULDS Empire: (£55 before deductions) for 40 hours.

Here's a closer look at the firm.

The accounts for the year ending 31st March 1980 show that ASHTON BROS. ▷ (HOLDINGS) LTD. made a profit after tax of £2.155 millions (1979 £1.215 million) Like the year before, it was all given in the form of dividends, to shareholders. COURTAULDS is ASHTON BROS only major shareholder. They also spent £205,000 closing down part of the firm.

Union official, FRED COOPER, who covers ASHTON BROS., claims to be involved in an uphill struggle against cheap imported textiles. But when Tory Trade Minister CECIL PARKINSON visited ASHTON BROS this year FRED was not present to press his campaign. And observers on the factory tour noticed imported PORTUGUESE cloth being finished there, whilst notice boards are decorated with pleas to 'Buy British'. Like COURTAULDS do, no doubt.

Ed. Following our last item on ASHTON BROS. their Union Branch Secretary, FRED COOPER, rang in to point out that his Union is called the HYDE AMALGAMATED WAREHOUSEWORKERS ASSOCIATION; that the work-force was consulted on this year's 6% pay rise through a ballot; and that his General Secretary is N. WAREING from BLACKBURN.□

DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS *EYE* WILL BE TAKING AN IN-DEPTH LOOK AT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE TEXTILES INDUSTRY IN TAMESIDE: ANY CONTRIBUTIONS - *PHOTOS, STORIES, INFORMATION* - WILL BE TREATED IN CONFIDENCE AND WOULD BE MOST WELCOME. □

EYE INFORMATION SERVICE

WE CAN PROVIDE DETAILS OF LOCAL COMPANY ACCOUNTS, PROFITS, DIVIDENDS and DIRECTOR'S SALARIES, plus BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON MANY LOCAL ISSUES.

TEL.MOSSLEY 6533
or **366 0382**
PO BOX 30 HYDE, CHES.

Ring us and we'll find out.

CRASH! in MOSSLEY...

G. HEAT -a write off beside public Canal towpath.

BANG! in ASHTON...

G. WARM - Canal festival joy ride ends in field of horses.

WALLOP! in DROYLSDEN...

G. ICRU - emergency landing in Droylsden Girls High School playing fields. Why no headlines for this one?

THIRD TIME LUCKY, LEON?

LEON "BIGGLES" HOWARD BOSS OF THE ACCIDENT-PRONE MOSSLEY HELICOPTER FIRM SEEMS TO BE LOSING HIS CANUTE-STYLE BATTLE WITH GRAVITY. IN JULY HE WROTE OFF ANOTHER OF HIS MACHINES AT TAMESIDE CANALS FESTIVAL. BUT EYE's INVESTIGATIONS HAVE REVEALED THIS WAS NOT THE *SECOND* MAJOR INCIDENT, BUT THE *THIRD*.....

Two in 18 months should alone be enough to convince the forthcoming Public Enquiry that the HELICO operation should be curtailed, but the Canals festival crash was not the second incident, it was the third. ▷

NEXT TIME SOMEONE COULD GET KILLED

The second incident, which LEON has been hoping would not be connected with him, happened at DROYLSDEN GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL on Friday June 5th this year. A helicopter made an emergency landing on the playing fields, after eye-witnesses claim to have seen something fall off the machine. Both the pilot and a mystery-man in a light brown Rover car (who arrived with two new doors for the helicopter) were tight-lipped about who ▷ the chopper belonged to. The hapless hack from the REPORTER forgot to ask and their photographer printed a front view of the machine, conveniently covering up its registration number.

EYE investigations have unearthed another photograph of the stranded chopper (see above), with the letters G-ICRU clearly displayed. G-ICRU is a Bell Jet Ranger operated by HELICO LTD. of Stamford Works, Mossley.

In July, LEON HOWARD described the Festival crash as a bit of 'bad luck'. This follows that other bit of 'bad luck' in Jan 1980 when LEON crashed his Jet Ranger, G-HEAT. The CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY probed this smash ▷ and their report put it a bit stronger than mere 'bad luck', they said the cause was 'pilot misjudgement' or to put it another way, it was LEON's fault.

These two incidents have destroyed nearly £½ mill. worth of helicopters, and the only luck involved is that no-one has yet been killed. Now the unscheduled landing in June has come out into the open, it's no wonder three qualified pilots have come and gone at HELICO this year. The firms 'meticulous maintenance' was clearly bad for their nerves.

LEON HOWARD IS GOING TO NEED A VERY GOOD LAWYER TO REPRESENT HELICO AT THE FORTHCOMING PUBLIC INQUIRY.

No Compensation

GARY and TINA WARHURST of NEWTON, HYDE were in the HELICO helicopter when it plummeted to the ground in JULY. TINA banged her head badly and was treated in hospital. To date HELICO have not even repaid the WARHURST family the £10.00 they'd forked out for the flight they didn't get. And HOWARD'S firm have not even begun discussions about compensation.

During the Festival, HELICO charged £5.00 per person for a joy ride lasting about 3½ minutes. EYE estimates their total takings in the two afternoons to be £2,400.00; the Festival organisers received a donation from HOWARD of about £240.00. Even costs in the region of £200.00 per hour to keep the machine in the air left the company in pocket.

Choppers - How Safe?

According to an analysis of CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY statistics, helicopters are more than five times as likely to have an accident as a fixed-wing aircraft. Between 1974 and 1979 there were 104 major helicopter crashes in Britain - leaving 21 dead and 45 injured.

But these disturbing figures hide an even bigger problem facing the forthcoming PUBLIC INQUIRY on LEON HOWARD'S helicopter operations. *There are no records kept of emergency landings and accidents that happen to helicopters weighing less than 2,300 kilogrammes - like HELICO'S machines.*

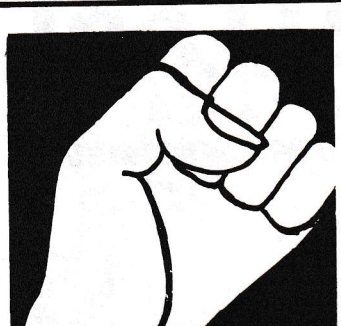
TERRY STEEPLES, British Airline Pilots Association technical secretary, has said "It's not possible to give helicopters the same degree of airworthyness as a fixed wing aircraft". The extremely high standards applied to aircraft wings and crucial parts, do not apply to helicopter engineering.

But a United States survey has shown that over 50% of helicopter accidents are caused by pilot error - not because the machines are complicated, but because the pilot is expected to handle so many different problems *at the same time.*

LEGAL TANGLES...

No date has yet been fixed for the Public Inquiry into HELICO'S chopper business. But whatever the outcome, the costs to rates and tax-payers could be high.

YOUR RIGHTS



School Leavers

Did you leave school during the summer? Are you short of cash? Unemployed? Then you should be in luck. Because from Monday 7th September you should have become eligible to claim supplementary benefit, and first you must make sure that you are registered unemployed.

HOW TO SIGN ON: The Careers office should give you a card to take to the Unemployment Benefit Office (otherwise known as the dole). There you should ask for a form called a B.1., which you fill in and take to the Social Security Office (DHSS); this is at Beech House, Clarendon Street in Hyde or Booth House, off Stamford St. in Ashton. If for some reason you cannot go to the office yourself then you can write or phone and ask for a form called an S.B.1. Also, if you have to travel a long way to the office, you can ask for your bus fares to be refunded to you.

SIGNING ON: When you claim Supplementary Benefit they will ask you what money you have, whether you pay rent, and, if so, how much. This is because Supplementary Benefit is 'Means tested' (in other words, what you get can depend on what you have and what you have to pay for),

WHAT YOU GET: If you live with your parents: The basic rate for Supplementary Benefit, in this case, is £13.10p per week if you are 16 or 17 years old, or £17.05p if you are 18 or over. On top of that, you will be given £2.15 per wk. which, according to the regulations, is what is laid down to pay to your parents for your keep. So, if you live at home and are 18, you will get £19.20.

If you live on your own: If you live on your own or share a house or flat with friends they will class you 'joint householder' in which case you will get more (£21.30 plus rent, for a householder).

WHAT ELSE IS AVAILABLE: You may be able to claim for other things while you are on Supplementary Benefit: these include prescriptions, dental treatment and glasses if you need them. Also, if you move away from home make sure you tell the DHSS because your Benefit should be increased. If you should be lucky enough to find a job then you can carry on receiving Benefit for the period during which you are waiting for your first wage, as well as bus fares to work, and any clothes you may need for your job.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ASK: at the DHSS office for leaflet NP12 (Social Security:- School leavers and students) as well as leaflet SB9 (cash help-what happens now you have claimed supplementary benefit)

GOOD LUCK!

P.S. Until this year you could have claimed benefit after leaving school instead of waiting 4 months.

GRASS ROOTS

just in

Arguments for Democracy by Tony Benn

a different bookshop

£6-95

1 newton street
piccadilly, manchester
m11hw tel 061 236 3112

Community Routes Needs You

WE ARE a voluntary independant group running a community transport service for the aged, handicapped and self-help groups in TAMESIDE.

WE HAVE a coach, a furniture van and a mini bus.

WE NEED voluntary drivers during the day, evenings or weekends.

IF YOU could help please ring Cliff on 366-9988 or drop into the Routes shop.

366 9988

2/3 Kingston Arcade.
Hattersley. Hyde.
Cheshire SK14 3RD.

DRIVEL

Hallo Readers!

Forgive me readers, but I am going to use this column to make an appeal on behalf of a friend who finds himself in the most desperate of straits. He is a man of 47 years and umblemished character, a former TORY Councillor in ASHTON and a highly respected Captain of local commerce with a profound belief in SPIRITUALISM who says that he was recently visited by the long-dead scientist ALBERT EINSTEIN who offered useful advice on the appropriate way to run his INSURANCE BROKERS and DRIVING SCHOOL.

I speak, of course, of ERNEST REEDS of 60 BEAUFORT RD. ASHTON a man fatally obsessed with a GREATER MANCHESTER BUS STOP.

This idle bus stop stands all day in front of ERNEST's Insurance brokers in Ashton thereby encouraging malignant would-be bus passengers to stand next to it and so obscure ERNEST's tantalising display of car-insurance bargains from passing drivers.

Naturally enough ERNEST has been canvassing his connections on Tameside and Greater Manchester Councils for some time in order to have this vile bus stop moved outside someone else's shop. But to no avail! The evil bus stop remains, ERNEST's business suffers and so, I fear, does ERNEST; for his conversation nowadays seems to be composed entirely of bus stops.

Thus, I appeal to all the councillors who read this column so avidly for references to themselves, I appeal to you Do not leave ERNEST in these dire straits a moment longer! Remove the shop!

Wek

IN COUNCIL

STRESS

Dear,dear, the strain is really beginning to show. CLLR. ROY OLDHAM, our beleaguered LEADER of the Council, torn between making Tory cuts and his own fiery idealism, flew right off the proverbial handle at a recent Labour party meeting. *He threatened a council employee with the sack.* Later ROY made an unreserved and grovelling apology to the person in question. □

RED RAY AND LADY DI

"Red" RAY SLAMON, Haughton Green's red shirted councillor has cleverly turned one of his more embarrassing moments to good use and is now busily making political capital out of what could have left him somewhat red-faced.

When the council's canal boat-for-handicapped-people scheme was being dreampt up, attempts were made to find a catchy name for the boat. Sarcastically RAY suggested LADY DIANA. Imagine RAY's hurt republican feelings when this idea was accepted with joy! But then the Palace stepped in and said that one couldn't allow a mere canal boat to be called after Her...and waffled on about connecting her to a commercial enterprise.

Quick as a shot, RAY is now demanding to know how the QE2 got its name? □

QUACKERS

The EYE-PRIZE for nit-of-the-month must go to Tory Councillor ERIC CLARKE, of 7 THE DINGLE, HYDE. ERIC thinks that all double-decker buses using the new predestrian precinct in Ashton should be fitted with COW BELLS so that dim pedestrians can hear them coming!

But why stop at COW BELLS ERIC? Why not have all G.M.T. buses fitted with computer-operated DONALD DUCK QUACKERS! And, just in case these don't work supplement them with big, manually operated, BOXING GLOVES on long poles so that impatient bus drivers can push deaf pedestrians out of the way!

COUNCILLOR ERIC CLARKE, WITH COWBELL AND BUS. □

WHITE ELEPHANT

The move into the large public convenience standing next to ASHTON TOWN HALL is due at the end of October. But the transfer of all the Borough's staff into the TAMESIDE ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEX (TAC for short) is not going all that smoothly.

With little over a month to go, many staff still don't know what is to happen to their jobs. A drastic reduction in telephonists is planned; Information officer posts are disappearing; where Departments are merging - such as Housing with Environmental Health - many clerical posts are going. □

COUNCILLORS' EXPENSES

Last year TAMESIDES 63 Town Councillors were paid over £30,000 in expenses for telephone bills, travel on council business compensation for 'loss of earnings' and attendance at official meetings...

Councillors aren't paid. But they can claim expenses for legitimate council activities. These expenses are paid for out of rates and taxes. Currently, a councillor is entitled to claim £14.00 for a full day of meetings, and £8.40 for a half day. Snacks and lunch often come free.

In addition to this all TAMESIDE councillors get their telephone rentals paid, and committee chairmen get £20.00 on top of this towards their quarterly bills. Councillors not on the phone can claim the cost of installation. Weekend trips on council business provide travel expenses, and TAMESIDE will also pick up the tab for drinks and other 'hospitalities'.

EYE went along to TAMESIDE'S finance department recently to see what your local councillor claimed for the year ending APRIL 5th 1981.

The results are in the table below and next month we'll be taking a more detailed look at some of the more interesting things one councillor last year's mayor - spent his allowances on . . .

	Attendance at meetings	Telephone allowance	Travel & Subsistence allowance	Total
	£ p	£ p	£ p	£ p
F. ADSHEAD	439.85	----	3.66	443.51
R. ABBEY	458.00	49.45	88.11	595.56
J. AMOR	----	49.45	----	19.45
P. BAILEY	685.56	69.45	91.10	846.11
M.P. BALLAGHER	----	49.45	----	49.45
J.S. BELL	556.64	49.45	76.28	682.37
MR.A. BOOTH	----	49.45	141.32	190.77
D. BOYLE	319.52	44.85	33.99	398.36
J.G. BRIERLEY	678.84	69.45	24.00	772.29
E.C. CLARK	----	49.45	164.02	213.47
R.B.J. DENYER	315.44	49.45	19.94	384.83
J.E. EASON	514.64	----	18.38	533.02
MRS. L. EASON	384.00	----	----	384.00
J. FITZPATRICK	711.12	49.45	108.99	869.56
D. FOGG	537.56	49.45	37.74	624.75
J.G. FORD	692.96	69.45	134.24	896.65
R.A. FOSTER	312.48	49.45	165.88	527.81
M. FOXLER	----	49.45	----	49.45
C. GRANTHAM	880.44	69.45	10.07	959.96
P. GREENHOUGH	181.04	49.45	14.40	244.89
L.J.T. GREENOUGH	367.76	49.45	----	417.21
J.O. HALES	528.96	49.45	11.96	590.37
MISS. P.L. HASLAM	373.44	49.45	30.91	453.80
J.N. HOWARD	160.16	64.45	26.74	251.35
G. HATTON	1,390.32	49.45	7.50	1,447.27
J. HUGHES	300.56	49.45	2.00	352.01
M.J. HUNTER	264.48	49.45	----	313.93
D. JACKSON	209.20	49.45	1.20	259.85
J.D LILLEY	320.32	49.45	----	369.77
T. MARSDEN	505.68	----	10.09	515.77
C.A. MEREDITH	433.60	49.45	----	483.05
G. NEWTON	1,074.56	69.45	226.24	1,370.25
S.R. OLDHAM	773.12	69.45	41.60	884.17
J.V. PETTIT	772.88	69.45	103.12	945.45
MR. E. PROCTOR	431.44	49.45	41.46	522.35
K.F. RAE	857.20	69.45	139.09	1,065.74
L. REDFERN	206.24	49.45	----	255.69
F. RUFFLEY	426.00	69.45	55.96	551.41
MRS. K.W. SHAW	408.96	49.45	34.25	492.66
R.S. SLAMON	448.80	69.45	----	518.25
R.H.P. SMITH	713.84	49.45	3.10	766.39
P.J. SPEAKMAN	420.88	49.45	21.90	492.23
H.D. STACHINI	662.30	49.45	14.71	726.46
A. STELFOX	470.72	49.45	15.35	535.52
MRS. S. SWIFFIN	808.96	69.45	37.76	916.17
J. THORNLEY	----	49.45	----	49.45
P. TOMLINSON	207.04	49.45	74.01	330.50
P. TRAVIS	813.84	69.45	158.04	1,041.33
J.A. TURNER	129.08	49.45	16.33	194.86
M. WAREING	193.20	49.45	29.01	271.66
P.G. WARNE	371.06	49.45	96.52	517.03
J.D. WEBB	156.64	49.45	11.10	217.19
K. WILKINSON	411.12	49.45	79.02	539.59
P. WILKINSON	----	49.45	----	49.45
W.D. WILKINSON	----	----	----	----
P A. WOOLGER	298.64	49.45	0.96	349.05
D.B. WRIGHT	872.64	49.45	130.94	1,053.03
A. D 'a FEARN	140.20	----	13.20	154.40
E. HALL	437.20	----	32.40	470.30
P. G.HAYDEN	664.40	----	17.47	681.87
G.I.LOMAS		----	3.72	
J. STELFOX	126.56	----	16.69	143.25
G. JAMES	----	----	6.86	6.86

(----No figure available in the file we inspected.)

A councillor's expenses do not indicate how hard he/she worked. Compared with TAMESIDE'S multi-million £ budget, £30,000.00 is peanuts. Should councillors be PAID for their work?

Write and tell us what you think. □

LETTERS

DEAR SIR,

I was shocked to learn that the vicar of Hattersley has used his pulpit as a soapbox from which to endorse the Govt.'s policy of increasing our nuclear armaments. If mankind has the opportunity to use dangerous and evil powers sooner or later they will be used.

Can the vicar not comprehend the appalling global catastrophe that nuclear war would create? If an atomic bomb were dropped on Manchester the citizens of Hattersley would stand little chance of survival.

If REAGAN and THATCHER get their way, cruise missiles and ultimately neutron bombs will be sited in this country, but control would be in the hands of the Pentagon. How can this serve British democratic freedom?

It must be the duty of all Christians and all who love peace, to seek to understand those whom we call our enemies, and not to take bellicose postures.

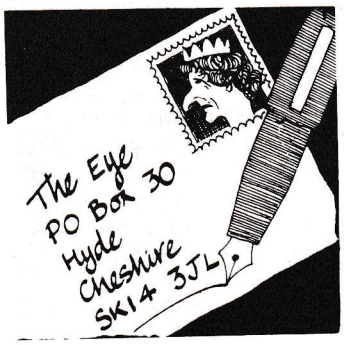
The vicar of Hattersley should recall the peace testimony of the Quakers, written in 1660...

'We certainly know.... that the spirit of Christ.. will never move us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the Kingdom of Christ, nor for the kingdoms of the world.'

Yours sincerely,

JANE TOZER
8 New St,
Broadbottom,
By Hyde, Ches. □

LETTERS



Bower Grinding

DEAR EYE.

Your item on the Bower Grinding Co.Ltd. in Issue No.22 was most misleading and totally incorrect viz:

- We were not 'the smelliest factory this month' or any other month, as what little smell we create is through grinding and granulating cured rubber and does not create a nuisance.
- We certainly did not leave Carrbrook because we were served with a nuisance order but to increase our production and workforce in larger more modern premises.
- We do not burn rubber but we merely granulate and grind it to a powder in the interest of reclamation economics to help British Industry to be more competitive.
- The only time that rubber was burned was when a young boy set fire to some scrap rubber outside the premises, but was apprehended by the Police and subsequently appeared in court.

Yours truly,
S.RAISTRICK
pp BOWER GRINDING CO. LTD.

EYE REPLY: We said your company left CARRBROOK after being served with a nuisance order, not because of it. The description of "smelliest" factory of the month is subjective. Local residents think you are very smelly, you think you are not.
We have now reported both points of view.
We apologise for saying you "burnt" rubber rather than grind it and are happy to correct that inaccuracy.
We get "Stinks and Bangs" from TAMESIDE's very own ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPT. who have received several more complaints about smells from your factory since EYE 23. Thanks for writing and apologies for the delay in printing the letter.

Ode

DEAR EYE,
ODE TO ROBERT WRIGLEY
-Mossley Businessman.

Mr. Wrigley is it true
That people don't approve of you?
Well, let me tell you in my way,
Why that roof cannot stay.

First of all, you must agree
It surely is a sight to see
Secondly, a point that's sore
Is most of it's on next door
So I could wake one happy morn,
And find my house has grown a dorm.
Third, and most important too
And many people hold this view,
If this THING is allowed to stay,
Regardless of what locals say,
We too will build just what we please,
To TAMESIDE we will say "Hard Cheese".

I've heard you have to take it down,
But come on ROBERT do not frown.
I know it could be very costly,
But come on ROBERT think of MOSSLEY.
We are proud of this small place,
We don't want to spoil its face.
We want to keep it as it is
A place of beauty for our kids.
ANON *EYE regrets that this poem has been cut due to its epic length.*

Death Grant

DEAR EDITOR

Patrick Jenkins, the Govt. Minister, spoke to the Royal British Legion Conference on 24.5.81 and is quoted as saying that increased help would be given with funeral costs. He said:-

"It is unlikely to have people waving flags, but it will be a marked improvement on the existing £30 grant"

DAVID HOBMAN, Director of AGE CONCERN ENGLAND, wrote to PATRICK JENKIN asking for confirmation of these reports. His reply implied that a means test of some kind would be introduced with the increased grant.

In the House of Commons on 31.7.81 Govt.Minister Lynda Chalker said in relation to a statement on the death grant.

'We had hoped that it would be made this summer, but there are some difficulties and it will now have to be made early in the new session.'

Presumably the statement will be made in November or December, as the Queen will open the new parliamentary session on Nov.4th.
There have been unofficial indications that an increased grant will be awarded but there will be a clawback on the estate of the deceased. Such a scheme might have a cut off point of say £2,000 so that anyone whose estate totalled more than this figure would have to return the grant. This is still speculation but I thought it may be of interest to you in view of the article in Tameside Eye 19 in Feb.this year.
Yours sincerely,

Jean Hurlston
Administrative Officer
Age Concern Tameside
98 Old St. A.U.L.

EYE 19 investigated the cost of local funerals. Here is a chart comparing the death grant with funeral costs.

DEATH GRANT PAYMENTS

Full Adult Rate	£30
Reduced Adult Rate	£15
Child Rate (Aged 6 to 17)	£22.50
Child Rate (Aged 3 to 5)	£15
Child Rate (Aged under 3)	£9

The average cost of a funeral is at least £300.

TAMESIDE EYE
PHONE: Mossley 6533
366 0382
WRITE: PO Box 30,
Hyde, Cheshire
SK 14 3JL

NEXT ISSUE:
EYE 27 will be
On Sale OCT. 17th

ADVERTISING RATES:
Full Page £60
Half Page £30
Quarter Page £15
Eighth Page £8
15% Off for 2 Inserts
25% Off for 4 Inserts
35% Off for 6 Inserts
SUBSCRIPTIONS: *Have the EYE mailed to you direct for £6.00 for 12 Months.*
PRINTED BY: *Manchester Free Press, Bombay House, 59 Whitworth Street, Manchester. Tel.228 0976*
c TAMESIDE EYE 1981
ISSN 0260-9800